Quantum & Woody ™ & ©1997 Acclaim Comics, ARR.

Quantum & Woody: Puttin' the Funny Back In Funny Books

There aren't too many "funny" books on the stands nowadays—in fact, humor is almost as rare in comic books today as unshapely "bad girls," non-muscular superheroes, and baggy costumes. But there's one book where humor has found a home: ***Quantum & Woody,*** the offbeat superhero book by Christopher J. Priest and M.D. ("Doc") Bright that simply refuses to fit into the superhero mold. While a book of this sort was seen by some as a risky experiment on Acclaim's part, editor-in-chief (and now publisher) Fabian Nicieza is confident that the book would find an audience—and judging from its steadily increasing audience, Nicieza's confidence paid off.

When ***Quantum & Woody*** debuted from Acclaim in late '96, the offbeat, irreverent, often tactless humor distinguished the book from every other Valiant reboot. Since then, the mixture of adventure and humor has become a trademark of the series. "All I can say is that I honestly believe the book keeps getting *better,*" Publisher and Editor-In-Chief Fabian Nicieza said. "The humor does *not* become stale or overdone—if anything, [***Quantum & Woody***] #s 5 through 7 use the humor to get us even more into the characters of Eric and Woody. This is a book I would be buying if I weren't getting it for free. I think it's consistently the best damn book in my line. I'm proud of it and I'm proud to be a part of it."

Writer Christopher Priest is aware that, in a field dominated by action and adventure, humor can be risky—and he also acknowledges that not everyone will agree on what is funny and what isn't. "Humor is *extremely* subjective," Priest said. "***Quantum & Woody*** is not for everyone (neither is ***Beavis and Butthead***). Doc and I new going in that, for every reader who giggled his arse off, there'd be another who either didn't get it or didn't like it."

Quantum & Woody, which is ostensibly the story of two superheroes—once boyhood friends, reunited after a lengthy separation—who find themselves reluctantly dependent one one another for their very existence. But this is a book whose storyline simply doesn't convey what the book is. The blending of humor and adventure, as well as the interspersing of flashbacks and episodic humor into the flow of the story, gives the book an appealing non-linear feel—but even that aspect of the book is risky. "I knew some people wouldn't like that, either," Priest said. "But I *do* maintain you *can* follow the story, just as you can follow the plot of ***Pulp Fiction.*** You just have to work a little harder... ***Quantum & Woody*** is not ever *about* the plot, any more than ***Seinfeld*** is. Any more than ***Peanuts*** is.

Unlike many books that try to pack a full origin tale and background on all the characters in the first issue, Priest and Bright have gradually developed the backstory of Eric and Woody's relationship, their fathers, shaping events in their individual lives, etc—and there are more such events to come.

"There is a trend these days towards immediate gratification," Priest said. "Like we should release an entire FAQ file and dossier with ***Quantum & Woody #1.*** We are *storytellers,* and this is a story we are telling."

It's obvious that ***Quantum & Woody*** is one of those books with "chemistry"—not just between Eric and Woody, the book's stars, but between Priest and Bright, the two creators. "Doc is ~~far and away my favorite~~ guy to work with," Priest said. "We'd waited for so long for *somebody* to allow us to work together. **sniff** We love you, Fabian..."

The friendship between the two is so close that some people have wondered if the childhood friendship of Eric and Woody, the stars of Quantum & Woody, is based on Priest and Bright. Surprisingly, it's not; the two first met about a decade and a half ago. M.D. Bright explains how such a friendship developed. "Priest and I met each other sometime around mid 1983. I was wandering around Marvel begging for work and he was working as Larry Hama's assistant editor on ***Crazy.*** Priest had a mini-series (***The Falcon***) and needed someone to draw the last three issues of it. I think it was Jim Shooter who tossed me Priest's way, hoping that Larry (who kept a used target from one of his shooting range sessions tacked to his office door) would shoot us both when we started shouting at each other.

"If Priest and I *had* known one another as children, the only question would be,which one of us would be dead now, and how much jail time did the other one get for the 'accidental' murder?"

There is an essence of truth to many of the flashback tales featured in ***Quantum & Woody,*** although the experiences aren't always those of Priest or Bright. "The dead dog story [one of the unforgettable highlights of the first issue]? If forgot to mention that was true, and thanks to William Messner-Loebs," Priest said. "The McDonald's bussing story was from Brian Augustyn."

But there are some bits that are taken from Priest's childhood. "I wanted to cull from my own school experience" for some of the school experiences that Eric and Woody went through, Priest said. "Kids are not nearly as dumb as grownups would like to think. They are blunt and cruel and insensitive, but not dumb..."

Priest and Bright aren't the only members of the ***Quantum & Woody*** team; Greg Adams has inked Bright's pencils since the first issue, gradually changing his inking style to best complement Bright's art. "Greg went through a bunch of changes looking for the right approach for Doc," Priest said. "He's really hit his stride now, and we're all really happy to be working with him."

***Quantum & Woody* #5,** a June release, pits the heroes against terrorists who intend to ransom America's political elite—but as you might expect, Quantum & Woody's rescue plan doesn't exactly run smooth. In this issue, readers will also learn about the capabilities of the bands that the heroes wear. ***Quantum & Woody* #6,** a July release that is one of the books included in Acclaim's Copycat Cover Month, brings back a character from the series' past: Warrant, the man suspected in the deaths of Eric's and Woody's fathers, who is not only still alive, but he may be at Eric's mother's house! A month later, in ***Quantum & Woody* #7,** readers witness the fight of the century: Quantum versus a man and his mother armed with a frying pan. ("See Quantum get whipped by a man and his mother armed with a frying pan."). How much more fun can you have for only $2.50 an issue?!

by CLIFF BIGGERS

Image Has Kisses Galore For Fans

The rock group Kiss has occasionally delved into the world of comics, starring in a pair of Marvel one-shots in the late 1970's and a more recent crossover adventure with the X-Men. But Kiss is about to kick their comic book career into high gear, with the help of Todd McFarlane Productions and Image Comics.

Kiss: The Psycho Circus is an all-new ongoing monthly series starring the kabuki-esque rock group in an incredible new series that combines fantasy and metaphysical adventure. Steve Gerber, well known for his work on ***Man-Thing*** and ***Howard the Duck,*** brings his unique storytelling approach to this new series; he is joined by artists Angel Medina and Kevin Conrad. In this series, each member of the group is an embodiment of the four sources that rule the outcome of fate, making this comic book that expands the Kiss mythos in an exciting new way. ***Kiss: The Psycho Circus #1,*** $1.95 comic, is scheduled for July release.

Todd McFarlane Productions is also producing a stunning series of ***Kiss Action Figures,*** all manufactured to the same high standards of quality and detail that typify TMP's Spawn figures. These 6 1/2" figures not only depict the members of the group in full makeup, but they also are heavily articulated for possibility and are packaged with a letter/stand that, when put together, forms stage that spells out the name of the group. The ***Kiss Action Figures*** are scheduled for August release.

by WAYNE LEE

COMIC SHOP NEWS
#37
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From Your Friendly Neighborhood Comics Outlet
Printed on Recycled Newsprint

CSNSIDER

CSNsider

Showtime's two new sf/fantasy original series, *Stargate SG-1* (based on the film, but with *Richard Dean Anderson* in the lead role) and *Hunger* (a weekly episodic series of "forbidden and bizarre" fantasy with a sensual edge), are set to debut in July... Meanwhile, ZENtertainment is reporting that *Bruce Lee* will be back—or at least his computer-generated spirit will be—in ***Bruce Lee's Netherworld***, an upcoming series on the USA Network... *Christopher Lambert* has signed on to play the lead in ***Gabriele Salvatores'*** film version of *Corto Maltese*... Universal Pictures and Amblin Entertainment have announced that they've reached an agreement with Harvey to produce a film sequel to ***Casper, the Friendly Ghost***...

It's widely reported on various online services that WildStorm Productions will probably oversee the creation of a thirteenth issue of all the ***Heroes Reborn*** books to give Marvel time to pull the ***Heroes Return*** storyline together; that means that the *Peter-David*-written weekly ***Heroes Return*** miniseries will most likely be pushed back from September to October release... *Is Jim Shooter* about to return to comics as a writer? Could be!...

Matt Howarth reports that, due to economic pressures, Æon and MU Press will be forced to end their publishing operations. That means that the long-running Howarth title ***Those Annoying Post Bros.***, along with several other books, will be without a home until a new publisher can be found. The last Æon issue of ***Those Annoying Post Bros.***, #59, will be on sale in December; Howarth is hoping that fans will rally around the book to boost circulation as much as possible to make it easy for him to find a new home right away...

Guest Star Updates: The Legion of Super-Heroes will be appearing in ***Superboy #35***, ***Action Comics #741***, and ***Adventures in the DC Universe #10***. Meanwhile, Impulse will appear in ***Sovereign Seven #28***... The Batman guest-starring appearance originally scheduled for ***Challengers of the Unknown #s 10 & 11*** has now been moved to ***Challs #s 11 & 12***... ***A Man Called A*X***, the former Bravura title first slated to make its DC debut in May, has been moved to DC's August schedule instead...

The Hollywood Reporter says that *Jake Lloyd*, the child actor from ***Jingle All the Way***, will play the role of Anakin Skywalker (the young Darth Vader) in the next ***Star Wars*** film. Meanwhile, **Ain't It Cool News** is reporting that *Charlton Heston* will have a role as a Jedi Master in the film as well... *Natasha Henstridge*, *Michael Madsen*, and *Marg Helgenberger* are returning for the sequel to Species... ***The Montreal Gazette*** has reported that *Joel Schumacher* has brought back the ***cast of Batman & Robin*** for some very last-minute reshoots after mixed responses to the film's advance previews...

Hasbro says that they have extended their licensing agreement for toys, games, and puzzles based onthe original ***Star Wars;*** the extension puts the Hasbro label on these items through 1998... *Mike Mignola*'s new Dark Horse project ***Zombieworld*** debuts in September...

After losing ratings dramatically this past season, ***Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman*** has formally been dropped by ABC; they've reached an agreement with Warner Bros. so that they will not be obligated to air an additional season ofthe once-top-rated series...

The theatrical release date for ***Spawn*** has been chanced to August 8th—which means that it'll open the same day as the *Shaquille O'Neall*-starring ***Steel*** film from Warner Bros, based on the DC comic... The ***Nick Fury, Agent of SHIELD*** made-for-tv film that Fox is producing has been cast: we've already told you that *David Hasselhoff* is starring as Nick Fury, but now we also know that *Lisa Rinna* is ContessaValentina Allegro de Fontaine; *Sandra Hess* is Viper, head of Hydra; *Ron Canada* is Gabe; *Neil Roberts* is Pierce; and *Garry Chalk* is Dum Dum Dugan. The film is reportedly very faithful to the concept of the comic book, including the helicarrier HQ, the LMD's, the costumes, etc.

WildStorm is talking with Marvel about taking on four new titles: ***The Punisher, Ghost Rider, Dr. Strange,*** and ***Nick Fury***. If this deal goes through, these books will be set in the Marvel Universe...

Toy Biz has reportedly terminated their letter of intent to participate in the planned reorganization of Marvel Entertainment Group, which seems to indicate that the Icahn-led bondholders' bid will be the victorious one. In fact, the bondholders and Toy Biz have reached an agreement by which the bondholders would underwrite a rights offering to raise $300-500 million in cash to pay off part of Marvel's $700 million bank debt. The bankers would get $300 million and the Panini and Fleer/Skybox parts of Marvel. The publishing/licensing part of Marvel and Toy Biz would then combine into a new holding company which would be 40% owned by Toy Biz stockholders and 60% by Marvel stockholders. For fans, this ultimately means that Marvel is in the comics biz for the long term, and it looks like the bankruptcy status will come to an end...

Strangers in Paradise, which joined the Homage Comic line last fall, is going its own way once again beginning in September. "It's been an honor to be a part of the Homage group," *Terry Moore* said. "There is no question that Strangers in Paradise has benefited from the association. But I designed *SiP* to be my sole means of creative output, and right from the beginning I knew I would self-publish. Fortunately, things worked out well for me, despite the industry challenge." *Jim Lee* added, "I believe Terry Moore has also benefited from the association. But I designed the Homage Comics line is all about is creators determining the futures of their own books, and Terry has made the decision that only he can make. We all wish him the best, and I know that I'll keep reading *SiP* as long as he produces it." The last Homage issue is ***Stranger in Paradise #8***, an August release; there will also be a commemorative poster the same month...

Supreme #52 is, as *Alan Moore* first told *CSN* readers about six weeks ago, an 80-page giant issue—but rather than being published as one eighty-page giant, it's being published as two 40-page books, ***Supreme #s 52A*** and ***52B***. The story focuses on the return of Supreme villain Darius Dax; the book also features a story from the Supreme comic strip of the 1950's, a cover gallery, a map of Citadel Supreme, a Rogue's Gallery, and more of the stuff that made 80-Page Giants so memorable...

Wizard Press has announced that they're adding a Beanie Babies price guide to the first issue of ***ToyFare***, slated for July... Scholastic Books is producing its first-ever comic book graphic novel series, ***Confessions of a Teenage Vampire,*** in July. The two eighty-page grpahic nvoels are written by *Terry West*, pencilled by *Steve Ellis*, and inked by *Richard Perrotta* and *Ravil Lopez*... *Colleen Doran* has announced that the first twelve issues of ***A Distant Soil*** are being collected into a 240-page trade paperback in August. "We've had constant demand for these back issues from readers, especially since many of these back issues are now sold out," Doran said. "New readers especially want a convenient, economical format to read read these stories." ***A Distant Soil: The Gathering*** will feature a new introduction by *Neil Gaiman*, new art, new cover paintings by Colleen Doran, and a previously unpublished story...

Update on our earlier piece on Kitchen Sink: it appears that, barring unforeseen involvement of outside investors, Kitchen Sink will cease operations in June. No word yet on what will happen to previously announced projects like the ***Spirit*** series and the ***Cages*** trade paperabck, as well as future ***Crow*** series...

Comic artist wannabees will definitely need to check out Dark Horse's ***The Art of Comic Book Inking***, a 112-page trade paperback that offers insight on just what it is an inker does and how important inking is to a comic book...

John Francis Moore, *Kieron Dwyer*, and *Hilary Barta* combine two popular DC concepts in ***Elseworlds' Finest,*** a two-issue series that teams up Elseworlds 1920's versions of Bruce Wayne and Clark Kent to battle Ra's al Ghul and Alexei Luthor; the first issue debuts in August... Look for Wonder Woman to become one of the first fatalities in ***Genesis,*** the major DC crossover series debuting in August—but don't worry, *John Byrne* reports that she'll get better—*much* better, in fact!... Batman is the subject of DC's second ***Secret Files*** release, a 64-page special due out in August; the one-shot will present a retelling of Batman's origin, behind the scenes info, a family tree, and more...

The next Big Book, ***The Big Book of Martyrs,*** is slated for August release... Vertigo is offering a trade paperback edition of the hard-to-find ***True Faith*** by *Garth Ennis* and *Warren Pleece*; the August release will feature a new intro by Ellis... Hallelujah! There's a new Gon volume, ***Gon Swimmin'***, on the Paradox Press schedule for August; the 160-page book will feature a trio of new dino-tales by *Masashi Tanaka*...

DC has a new series of limited edition lithographs in the works; the first lithos, featuring images of Batman by *Alex Ross* and *Gene Ha*, will be available in September. Each litho ships double-matted and is limited to 3000 copies... If you're a very affluent collector, you might want to check out the solid bronze ***Sandman Statue*** Vertigo is offering in October; the $1800.00 statue is limited to just 200 castings...

Jim Lee supplies the pencil artwork for ***Gen13: European Vacation,*** a 48-page one-shot shipping in August... Gen13 and Image venture into the world of 3D in August with the ***Gen13/Generation X 3D Edition,*** a full-color 3D version of the book by *Brandon Choi*, *Art Adams*, and *Alex Garner*. Image will also offer a 3-D version of the first issue of ***WildCATs*** in August...

Demand for the first three issues of ***Thunderbolts*** has been so strong that Marvel is rush-releasing a trade paperback, ***Thunderbolts: First Strike,*** in August—and it'll be bargain-priced at 33% less than the cover price of the three comics it reprints!...

This August, *P. Craig Russell* gets a rare second chance to tell the story that he first presented over two decades ago in ***Dr. Strange Annual #13***.The one-shot bookshelf-format ***Dr. Strange: What Is It That Disturbs You, Stephen?*** is an expanded, fully rewritten and redrawn 48-page version of the story that was crammed into a 35-page format when it was originally released... All four ***Heroes Reborn*** books will feature a continued story pitting the heroes against Galactus, with the help (or hindrance?) of Dr. Doom; the four-parter marks the beginning of the end of the Heroes Reborn saga...

Marvel is bashing their Legends concept into an annual event; in August, ***Marvel: Heroes and Legends '97*** will feature a retelling of ***Avengers #16*** (the classic "new line-up" issue) by Stan Lee and James Felder, with art by Bullpen veterans *Steve Ditko*, *Sal Buscema*, *Dick Ayers*, *Al Milgrom*, and *Gil Kane*.... Spidey just can't get a break: first, the original Green Goblin returns, and now, in ***Amazing Spider-Man #427***, the original Dr. Octopus is brought back to life—but another must die to reanimate the veteran villain. And speaking of that original Green Goblin, he's the featured bad guy in the 48-page ***Spectacular Spider-Man #250***...

ClanDestine Vs. the X-Men, a 288-page August-release trade paperback, reprints all eight issues of ***ClanDestine*** plus the ***ClanDestine/X-Men*** miniseries, all produced by Alan Davis and Mark Farmer... August also brings ***The Essential X-Men Volume 2,*** reprinting ***The Uncanny X-Men #s 120-145*** in black and white...

Saint Germaine: Restoration is a special 48-page Caliber one-shot by *Gary Reed*, *Vince Locke*, and a number of guest artists that spotlights Saint Germaine's role through history—and you can look for oodles of famous guest-stars... Sherlock Holmes confronts Alister Crowley in ***Sherlock Holmes: Mark of the Beast***, a miniseries debuting from Caliber in August...

Comico has a number of new ***Elementals*** projects in the works for late '97 and early '98, including an ***Elementals Bisque*** and an Elementals toy line, as well as one-shots and solo specials...

Stephen King's long awaited ***Dark Tower IV: Wizard and Glass*** is at long last slated for September release... Legion editor *KC Carlson* recently announced that DC will be offering ***Legion Flight Rings*** in November, handsomely cast and priced at $60-$70 each (and no, they don't work); Carlson also said that ***Legion Archives Volume 7*** is scheduled for November release as well. Also in the works is a ***Secret Origins*** Legion miniseries and a ***Legion of Super-Heroes Secret Files*** (have you deduced yet that November is Legion month?)...

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QUICKSHOTS

Superpowers a General Disaster for Major Bummer

Not everyone wants to be a superhero. Louis Martin certainly has no such ambitions.

In fact, Louis Martin has no ambition at all. He's an unmotivated, directionless, slacker. And he loves it.

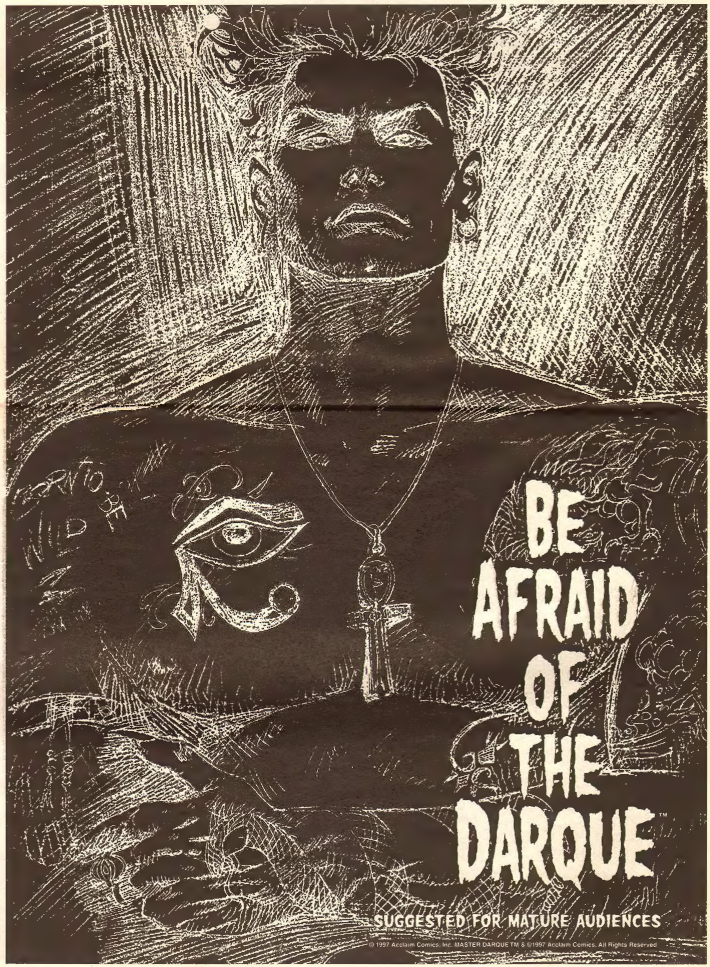
So you can imagine how he feels when he awakens from one of his frequent late night sprees and discovers that somehow, while he slept, he put on a hundred pounds of pure muscle and gained some pretty incredible superpowers. This is the sort of stuff that can destroy a slacker's life!

Major Bummer is the creation of *John Arcudi* and *Doug Mahnke*, best known to fans for their work on the equally anti-heroic ***The Mask***. In this new ongoing series, they turn superhero tradition upside down as they introduce the man who never wanted to be a superhero and all the super-wannabees who follow him around like gnats. His supporting cast includes a clairvoyant whose power seems to be the ability to say "I knew you were going to say that," and a giant cat who sleeps a lot. Oh, and there's lots of super-villains, too... although Louis has no idea why they keep pestering him...

According to Arcudi and Mahnke, ***Major Bummer*** is "funnier than ***Sin City***, with more action than ***The Sandman*** and cheaper than ***Kingdom Come***." You'll see that they mean every word of that, too, when ***Major Bummer #1***, a $2.50 comic, reaches comic shops on June 18th.

A Nameless Truth

How does a man fight a god? Not very well, if he's an ordinary man—but readers are about to discover that the Nameless is far from an ordinary man. His investigations into the deaths of the street children he has sworn to protect has convinced the Nameless that Huitzilopochtli, the Aztec god of death, is behind the murders... and that means that a long-time adversarial relationship is about to bloom once again. As the Nameless prepares to confront the murderous god, readers will learn the truth behind the Nameless's origin. ***The Nameless #3***, a pivotal issue in the story of this mysterious hero, is written by *Joe Pruett* and illustrated by *Phillip Hester*; look for the $2.95 Image comic in July.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SUGGESTED FOR MATURE AUDIENCES
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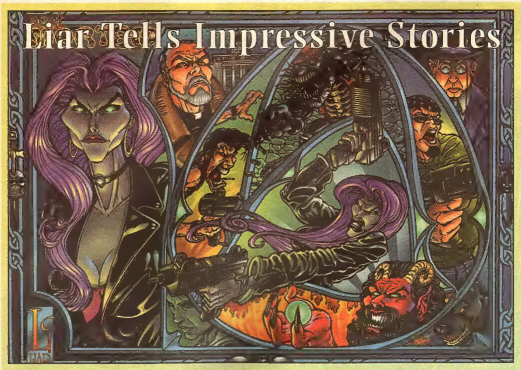
CSN NEWS & NOTES

Liar Tells Impressive Stories



Most new publishers start very modestly—but that's not the way that Matt and Sharon Scott, the publishers of Liar Comics, wanted to do things. Rather than going the humble-beginnings route, the Scotts are determined to make a major splash in the summer comics market with their first two titles—and they're doing it the old-fashioned way, with a combination of strong stories and stunning visuals.

"We've been in business since 1994," Matt Scott said; both he and Sharon Scott have worked as colorists—and their strong sense of color and design is evident in both of Liar's summer books, ***More Than Mortal*** and ***Post Mortem***. "Both titles are full-color projects featuring some of the best up-and-coming artists and creators in the industry... Liar Comics is committed to bringing the highest quality comics to their readers both in stories, content, and art. But don't take our word for it. See them for yourself."

The Scotts are joined by artists Steve Firchow, Joe Weems, Mark Teague, and Walden Wong; these creators have worked in the past for Image, Marvel, Disney, Entity, Antarctic, and Lightning Comics, among others companies. The result is a pair of books with a strong, sophisticated visual style.

More Than Mortal, written by Sharon Scott with art and color by Steve Firchow, is a series that draws from concepts found in Celtic/Irish myths. "The story follows the life of a young orphan whose destiny will take her across continents, battles, and an epic story so large that it will span an entire century," Sharon Scott said. "Deirdre, the unlikely heroine, will need more than cunning to escape the unnatural hordes that hunt her... more than courage to challenge the spirit of an ancient legend. To survive, she will need to be... ***More Than Mortal.***" While Firchow's art might not be familiar to comic book fans, his stunning coloring is: Firchow has provided breathtaking computer colors for ***The Darkness***, among other books—and his work for this series surpasses even his work for that acclaimed book.

Post Mortem, written and illustrated by Mark Teague and Walden Wong with colors by Matthew Scott, is a macabre tale of a vitiate—a collector of souls. Centuries ago, Grizette Adams made a deal with Satan to prolong her husband's life—and at long last, she's about to fulfill her contract and regain her freedom. Then a courageous priest enters the picture, and his interference may stop Grizette from ever regaining her own spiritual freedom.

More Than Mortal #1 and ***Post Mortem #1***, each priced at $2.95, are scheduled for June release. Liar is also producing a stunning 22" x 34" full color poster to accompany ***More Than Mortal***, featuring art and colors by Steve Firchow and inks by Joe Weems; the $5.95 poster is also scheduled for June release.

"Sick of seeing the same old thing?" Matt Scott asks. "Let us take a few minutes out of your day to show you something new..." And when they say that these books aren't your standard everyday comics, that's no lie!

by ALEX KIRKLAND

A Decade of Hep

Most folks graduate from college in a lot less than ten years, but the stars of ***Hepcats*** have been matriculating for a decade now. Ten years of studying—and starring in a comic book—is reason enough for a celebration... and that's just what Antarctic Press and *Martin Wagner* have in mind.

The Hepcats Tenth Anniversary Special is a double-sized comic featuring both black and white and color material. In addition to a special look back by Wagner, the book will also include a continuation of the "Friday Night" story from ***Hepcats #0***, along with a special gallery section featuring work by a variety of artists, including *Stan Sakai* and *Colleen Doran*, and "The Sea Change," a poem by *Neil Gaiman* illustrated by Wagner. "It's a beautiful, vivid, dark fantasy poem that will give me a chance to show that I can draw people," Wagner said.

The Hepcats Tenth Anniversary Special will be offered in two formats: a regular edition comic for $4.95 and a deluxe edition polybagged with a new "Radio Hepcats" CD for $11.95. The CD will feature twelve new tracks, described by Wagner as "aggressive and energetic," spotlighting a wide range of break-out bands. Look for both editions in June.

DESTINY SMELLS OF DUST AND THE LIBRARIES OF THE NIGHT.
HE LEAVES NO FOOTPRINTS.
HE CASTS NO SHADOW.
—Neil Gaiman
the SANDMAN: Season of Mists
Destiny
The eldest member of the Endless is portrayed in cold-cast porcelain in the newest addition to DC's line of fine collectible limited edition statues.
The statue is over 9½" tall, with a 1" thick carved mahogany base.
(Final base not shown.)
Also included with this deluxe statue: a free 8-page parchment booklet providing further insights into Destiny.
As seen in the upcoming 3-issue miniseries DESTINY: A Chronicle of Deaths Foretold.
sculpted by William Paquet * based on designs by Michael Zulli
$195.00 U.S./$295.00 Can.
This limited edition cold-cast porcelain statue will be available in comics specialty stores in September 1997. This statue is manufactured to order, up to a maximum of 5,500 pieces. Reserve your statue at your local comics shop now! To find the nearest comics shop, call 1-888-COMIC-BOOK.
VERTIGO

GAMING NEWS

~ This is a big month for CCG fans, is highlighted by the release of not one, but two new products for the *Magic: The Gathering* game. First off, you have the *new Weatherlight* expansion for *Magic*, providing over one hundred and forty new cards for the smash game. Wizards of the Coast isn't letting much information slip about this expansion in the way of cards, but they have given us a plethora of knowledge regarding the story behind the release. *Weatherlight* is the first release in a new series that will run through several different releases for the next year or so. The story centers around a Sissay. Captain Sissay to be exact, the commander of the Weatherlight, a flying ship that travels the realms of Dominaria. We will join Sissay and her courageous crew as they face perils and challenges from around the realm, the first mystery centers around the kidnapping of Sissay and her crew's efforts to see her returned safely. What exactly happens depends on what order you place the cards in, as the story changes with the play of the cards. The Captain and crew will face off against new creatures and magic, the likes of which you have never seen before (but then again, if you had seen them, this wouldn't be a new expansion, would it?). Of course, those new cards are still a secret—though you might want to keep an eye out for the Lotus Valley, a card that gives you three mana of any one color. Sort of reminds you of another card with the word Lotus in it, doesn't it? *Magic: The Gathering Weatherlight Expansion* should be out in June for the suggested retail price of $2.95 a pack.

Now, if you aren't quite ready to jump into a new expansion, then you might be wanting to keep an eye open for *Portal*. *Portal* isn't your ordinary *Magic* expansion, but instead is a simpler, more introductory version of the game. This version of *Magic* is designed to bring players into the *Magic* world, streamlining the rules and clarifying the rulebook. Still, the game remains basically the same, teaching new players the concepts of putting creatures in play, tapping cards, and casting spells, all in an effort to defeat your opponent before he beats you. Though the game remains basically the same, it is not truly compatible with the basic *Magic* game. *Portal* will be available in both starters and boosters, just like the standard game. The starters will retail for $8.95, and the boosters will go for $2.95. *Magic: The Gathering Portal* will be out in mid June.

~ Harper Prism enters the world of CCG publishing with the release of two new games based on very popular properties. First off, we have the new *Aliens vs. Predator* game that combines the two movies, and three forces in deadly combat. Players take the role of either a Predator, an Alien, or a space marine all looking to survive, and eliminate their foe. This is a fast paced combat game that pits you in head to head combat against your foe, and an unseen force as all three are constantly battling for the upper hand. The game uses actual images captured from the three *Alien* films and the two *Predator* movies. *Aliens vs Predator* will come in both sixty card starters and fifteen card boosters. The starters will retail for $8.95, and the starters will retail for $2.95.

If you are more of a book person, then you will want to check out the new *Imajica CCG*. This new game based on the best-selling novel by Clive Barker has each player taking on the role of a Maestro, trying to secure a holding in each of the five Dominions. This is a strategy game, that uses combat and deceit to outwit or outpower your opponent. The cards use original art done expressly for the game, and includes pieces by artists like Ted McKeever, Carl Lundgren, Ralph Groff, and even Barker himself. *Imajica* will come as double deck starters, retailing for $15.00 each, and as standard booster packs of fifteen cards retailing for $2.50 each.

~ The movie games don't stop there, as *Star Trek* has two expansions coming out for two games from two companies.

At long last, Decipher is ready to release the new expansion for the *Star Trek Next Generation* CCG. This new expansion gets things up to date, and into the movies with the release of *Star Trek: First Contact*. This release gets all of the characters up to their current stats, and brings some new ones into the fray, including the Borg Sphere, the Borg Queen, and the all-new Enterprise E. Look for this new release sometime in June.

If you prefer your *Star Trek* a little more dated, then you are going to be happy, too. *The Star Trek* CCG will have the new *Alien Encounters Booster Display* hitting the shelves in June, bringing some more of the classic show into your game. Over 160 cards will be included in this set, including such popular characters as Ambassador Sarek, his wife Amanda, and Zephran Cochran (who is probably in that other set, as well...). These fifteen card boosters will retail for the suggested price of $2.95 each.

~ Just to change the pace for a minute, without taking things too far, let's look at some new releases for the role-playing market...that are also based on movies.

First off, if you keep your head about you, then you'll be happy to see the new *Highlander Role-Playing Game* hitting the shelves from Thunder Castle Games. These are the same people that bring you the *Highlander CCG*, and the quality should be just as high for the RPG. This game comes complete with everything that you need to begin playing the game, including the basic rules, characters creation, setting, and more. The game will be out this June for the suggested retail price of $24.95.

That isn't the only one. There is also a new game based on the upcoming summer blockbuster, *Men In Black*. This new game from West End uses the terrific *D-6* system, making it easily accessible and quick to learn. You can take on the role of one of those brave few that are fighting to save the Earth from the scum of the universe, and really kick some alien butt. *Men In Black: The Role-Playing Game* will be out in June for the suggested retail price of $20.00.

~ Okay, it might not be a movie—yet—but there is another big CCG release due this June. *X-Files 22364 Expansion Set* is the newest release for this hit game from USPC. This game provides cards from the third season of the series, letting you take things past where they are right now. All new mysteries, all new danger, and a Scully's Birthday (February 23, 1964...you figure it out) are covered in this one release. *The X-Files 22364 Expansion Set* will be out in June for the suggested retail price of $3.00 a pack.

~ *BattleTech* fans are about to get very technical. *Maximum Tech* is the new release that introduces optional rules that takes *BattleTech* to an all-new level. More realism, more weapons, more detail, and just plain more await fans who pick up this new expansion. This book even includes rules for running a double-blind combat session, letting players face the unknown in another human opponent. *Maximum Tech* will be out in June for the suggested retail price of $15.00.

Fasa has also announced another new release, though this one won't be out until August. *The Shadowrun CCG* will be designed and produced by Fasa, giving you a chance to face the future with a bit of the fantasy past in one great game.

~ Okay, this one is different. *J.E.D.* is the new collectible card game from the Ixtomi Corporation. *J.E.D.* stands for Just Employed Dimwit, and it is the first collectible business card game on the market. THe object of the game is build the most successful business, and the way to tell how your business is doing is by comparing the salary cap; the first person to reach $50,000 on their salary cap is the winner. This is a very lighthearted game aimed at the adult market, without being adult in content, just in theme. The game comes complete with everything that you need to begin playing, including the standard rules, a fifty-three card deck, five desk plaques, three bonus/salary scale cards, and profit and loss scorepads. *J.E.D.* is aimed for two to five players. *J.E.D.* should be available in early to mid-summer for the suggested retail price of $19.95.

by BRETT BROOKS

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Available now — Rifts® World Book 15: Spirit West™
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July — Rifts® Sourcebook 4: Coalition Navy
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QUICKSHOTS

Putting Her Best Foot Forward

©DC Comics

Today's DC readers may know her best as Oracle, but veteran DC fans remember Barbara Gordon quite fondly as Batgirl. Movie fans meet a different Batgirl in the upcoming Batman & Robin film, but she'll never replace Barbara Gordon (who became Batgirl in the 1960's in the pages of ***Detective Comics***) as the true Batgirl. Now Barbara Gordon's lithe costumed hero identity is memorialized in old-cast porcelain by *William Paquet*, who worked from designs by *Brian Steffreeze*. The ***Batgirl Statue*** is a stunning addition to DC's line of Bat-family sculptures—and when you consider how quickly the previous statues ***(Batman, Robin, the Joker,*** and the ***Dark Knight Batman)*** have sold out, you know that you need to put in your reservation for this one right away. There'll only be a maximum of 5500 statues cast before the molds are destroyed, making this a true collectible. The ***Batgirl Statue,*** a $195.00 sculpture, is scheduled for August 27th release—but don't wait to let your local comic retailer know that you want one, because it's expected to sell out prior to release!

Dragon the Line

Need to add some more green to your comic book diet? Well, Image has just the nutritional plan for you, bunky: multiple doses of Savage Dragon for the next few months will have you feeling better than ever!

The Savage Dragon, *Erik Larsen*'s flagship green-finned title, takes a new direction with its fortieth issue as the Dragon gives up his job as a cop and becomes the leader of a new government strike-force super-team. At the same time, Larsen looks into the Dragon's past as he collects the offbeat "A Talk With God" storyline from ***Savage Dragon #s 27-33*** in a single volume; this book not only co-stars the Maxx, Freak Force, WildStar, and Spawn, it also features the ultimate good-versus-evil battle—God versus the Devil! ***The Savage Dragon #40*** is priced at $2.50, while ***A Talk With God*** is priced at $17.95; look for both in June.

©2000 Erik Larsen

An important new character enters the Dragon's life in ***Savage Dragon: Sex & Violence,*** a two-issue miniseries beginning in July. A battered housewife discovers that she has latent superpowers just in time to use those powers to kill the husband who's been terrorizing her. Jennifer Murphy, first introduced in this series, will play a major role in upcoming Dragon storylines. ***Savage Dragon: Sex & Violence #1,*** a $2.50 comic by *Tom & Mary Bierbaum, Erik Larsen, Adam Hughes,* and *Rick Mays,* is scheduled for July release.

You want heroic meetings? Well, the Dragon's got plenty of those coming up as well. First, he guest-stars in ***Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles #10*** (June, $2.50), in which Leonardo, Raphael, Michaelangelo, and Donatello are joined by the Dragon in a hunt for the missing, mutated Splinter. Then the Dragon joins forces with the ultimate lawman in ***Savage Dragon: Marshal Law*** (July-August, $2.95$0), a two-issue crossover series debuting in July. *Pat Mills and Kevin O'Neill* put Marshal Law on the trail of Mighty Man, whom he thinks is responsible for killing superheroes who have broken the Ten Commandments.

©2000 Lightning Comics

A Nira X-cellent Figure

Some very stylishly drawn comic characters translate all too poorly to three dimensions; some designers find it difficult to bring the artist's style to life in an action figure or statue. That's most certainly not the case with the stunning ***Nira X Action Figure*** that Lightning Comics is offering this summer; the 6" sculpture, complete with poseable arms and legs, detachable cape, and plasma gun, is one of the most attractively designed comic book action figures we've seen from any company—and it remains totally faithful to artist *Bill Maus*'s comic book rendition of the heroine. Lightning is offering the Nira X figure in two versions: a standard figure priced at $10.95 and a deluxe platinum version, limited to 5000 figures, priced at $14.95. If you want to be sure that you don't miss out on either (or both!) versions, reserve 'em at your local comic shop ASAP—and tell 'em that *CSN* sent you!

Blood Feud

A Vampirella/Wetworks team-up? Unthinkable, it might at first seem! After all, as Vampirella managing editor *David Hedgecock* says, "The Wetworks team has battled vampires since their inception. Nevertheless, as Biggart points out, 'They've never faced an one like Vampirella,' which makes this a memorable meeting for Vampi, Wetworks, and the fans of both series.

The two-part story begins in June with the release of Harris Comics' ***Vampirella/Wetworks***, written by *Steven Grant* and illustrated by *Scott Hampton*. The superteam and the seductive vampire join forces to battle one of Vampirella's deadliest foes, the Blood Red Queen of Hearts. A month later, Wetworks and Vamp cross paths again in the Image-published ***Wetworks/Vampirella***, written by *Joe Ahearne* and illustrated by comics legend *Gene Kane* and inker *Richard Pennett*. In this unrelated story, a threat to both the human and vampire population forces Wetworks and Vampirella to unite to save both races. ***Vampirella/Wetworks***, a $2.95 comic from Harris, is scheduled for late-June release; ***Wetworks/Vampirella***, a $2.95 Image comic, follows on July 9th.

The Hanes of Justice

Rob Hanes is not only one of the best kept secrets that Justice International has in their stable of globetrotting troubleshooter-investigators—he's also one of the best kept secrets in comics! While *Randy Reynalds*'s fast-paced adventure series has received rave reviews and acclaim from fellow writers and artists, all too few fans have had a chance to sample the adventures of Rob Hanes. Now Caliber is doing their part to make Rob Hanes available to everyone with the debut of ***Rob Hanes: Justice International,*** a new series starring this freelance adventurer. Hanes' life is exactly what you'd expect: he spends a lot of time travelling the world, romancing beautiful women, battling globe-threatening villains, and getting mixed up in international plots. If you've ever enjoyed a James Bond adventure, then Rob Hanes is just the book for you. ***Rob Hanes: Justice International #1,*** a $2.95 comic, is scheduled for mid-June release.

This August from the House of Ideas!

On Sale August 6

- *Cable #47* — Cable vs. Bastion- Winner gets the X-Mansion!
- *Daredevil #368* — Omega Red, Black Widow and the Russians are all after a certain hero from Hell's Kitchen!
- *Dr. Who #255* — The one and only mag for each and every fan.
- *The Fantastic Four #12* — Galactus is here!
- *Hercules and the Heart of Chaos #3 (of 3)* — A mortal Herc takes on an immortal Ares.
- *Ka-Zar #6* — To tame an urban jungle Rhino!
- *Marvel Team-Up #2* — Starring Spider-Man & Hercules! Spidey and Herc pay homage to Dr. Zeus.
- *Maverick #2* — Maverick's mysterious past is revealed!
- *The Sensational Spider-Man #20* — Spidey dares to seal the Living Pharaoh's tomb!
- *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine #10* — Trapped in the Holodeck of Doom!
- *Star Trek: Voyager #10* — Re-live the first Borg encounter!
- *Uncanny Origins #14* — Starring Iron Fist- Danny Rand in K'un Lun.
- *The Uncanny X-Men #348* — The secret of the X-Men's return lies with Jospeh!

On Sale August 13

- ***Alpha Flight #3*** — Rising from the grave comes Chinook.
- *Amazing Spider-Man #427* — One must die so that Doc Ock may live again!
- *Avengers #12* — Avengers Assemble...for the last time?!
- *Clandestine vs. X-Men Trade Paperback* — Meet the Clandestine- The strangest superhero family ever! From the genius of Alan Davis.
- *Daydreamers #3 (of 3)* — The Dark Hunter becomes the hunted.
- *Generation X #31* — The White Queen betrays Penance to Emplate!
- *Ghost Rider #89* — Prelude to the "Last Temptation."
- *Journey Into Mystery #513* — The Lost Gods and Odin are reunited!
- *Marvel Adventures #7* — Starring the Hulk! Beware Tyrannus!
- *Men In Black: Retribution #1* — The comic book sequel to the box-office hit.
- ***Uncanny X-Men '97*** — Caution to Gene Nation: Razors are deadly!
- ***Untold Tales of Spider-Man #25*** — It's the ultimate ish as Green Goblin appears!
- ***X-Factor #138*** — Introducing the U.S. government's #1 Hound- Sabretooth!

On Sale August 20

- *Colossus #1* — Colossus visits the City of Lights with Arcade in the shadows.
- *Dr. Strange: What Is It That Disturbs You, Stephen?* — The Sorcerer Supreme reigns in a spell-binding one-shot conjured by P. Craig Russell.
- *Excalibur #113* — Wisdom's past threatens Nightcrawler's future.
- *Heroes For Hire #4* — It's strength vs. speed when Power Man battles Iron Fist!
- *The Incredible Hulk #457* — Hulk smash Juggernaut!
- *Iron Man #12* — Terrax paints the town blood red!
- *Peter Parker, Spider-Man #84* — Trouble calls with a capital "J"...for Juggernaut!
- *Psylocke & Archangel: Crimson Dawn #3 (of 4)* — The Ultimate Undercloak wants Psylocke's life...literally!
- *Squadron Supreme Trade Paperback* — The story that inspired the likes of KINGDOM COME. New painted cover by Alex Ross.
- *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine #11* — Odo could save Sisko & Dax, if only he knew!
- *Star Trek: Starfleet Academy #11* — Travel back in time to a young Captain Pike.
- *Thunderbolts #7* — The T-Bolts demand the Avengers' files from the city in return for services rendered!
- *What If? #101* — Starring the original X-Factor! Archangel joins Apocalypse's Horsemen for good.
- *X-Man #31* — Nate is having nightmares...about the X-Men!
- *X-Men #68* — Marrow joins Iceman and Cecilia on the run.

On Sale August 27

- *Captain America #12* — Cap must shield the world from the Fire Lord!
- *Deadpool #9* — The contract is out...on Deadpool's head!
- *Elektra #11* — Part 1 of "American Samurai" guest-starring Daredevil.
- *The Essential X-Men Volume 2* — The monumental Chris Claremont, John Byrne and Terry Austin-run collected.
- *Gambit #2 (of 4)* — Remy's got the goods and everybody wants him...dead or unalive.
- *Generation X '97* — Gen X meets the Hellions...in life after death.
- *Marvel Heroes & Legends 1997* — A book by the best ! (Stan Lee, Steve Ditko, Sal Buscema, Gil Kane and the list goes on!)
- *Marvel Vision #23* — Articles, inside info, previews and all for you!
- *Silver Surfer #132* — The Surfer finally remembers his past!
- *Spectacular Spider-Man #250* — Norman Osborn, the original Green Goblin, is back!
- *Star Trek: Early Voyages #9* — Nano returns home...as an outcast!
- *Venom: Sign of the Boss #2 (of 2)* — Venom and Ghost Rider rumble in the Bronx!
- *Wolverine #117* — Operation: Zero Tolerance continues!
- *X-Force #70* — After X-Force leaves the X-Mansion- road trip!

Hey True Believer, want to make sure you don't miss out on any of the fun? Then check off the issues you want, fill out the info below and bring this page back to your local comic shop!

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